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# The Highlander

Thursday **July 3 2025** | Issue 696

**INSIDE: CELEBRATING OUR GRADS PAGES 9-13** **FREE**

Dr. Van Der Leden, centre in the red shirt, surrounded by Kinmount District Health Services Foundation volunteers and MPP Laurie Scott, says she loves the lifestyle practising in the Highlands affords her. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

# Arrivals just what the doctor ordered

**By Mike Baker**

The moment Dr. Ali Akbar Bohra laid eyes on Haliburton, he said it was love at first sight.

One of the five new physicians to land in cottage country over the past 18 months, Bohra said all it took was a quick Google search to convince he and his family that their future lay in the Highlands. He joined the emergency department at the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) in May 2024.

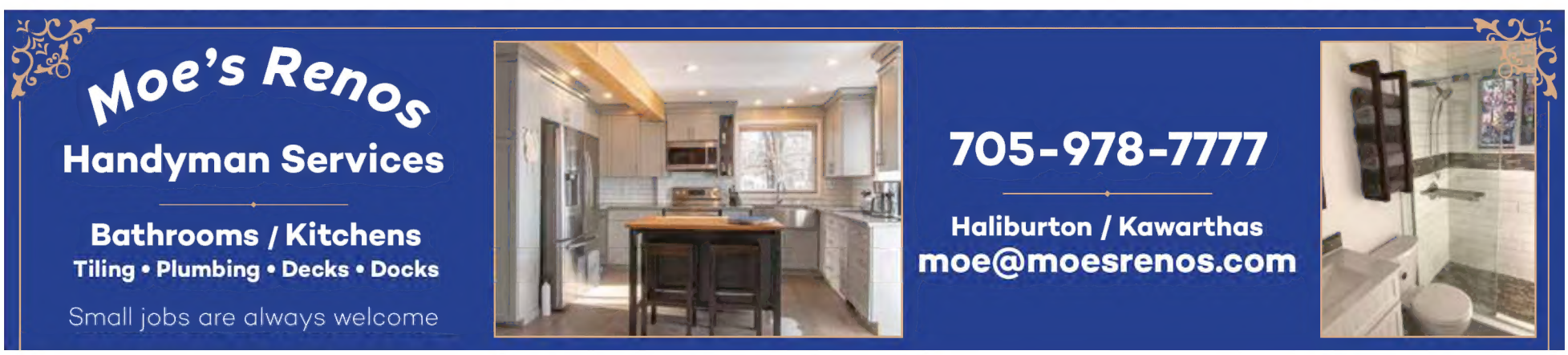
Born and raised in Pakistan, Bohra completed medical training in his home country before spending 15 years practising in England, Ireland and the United Arab Emirates. While working as a trauma doctor in the UK, he saw an ad in the *British Medical Journal* promoting a better standard of living in smalltown Ontario. Embedded among the words was a picture of Head Lake in Haliburton village.

Bohra did some digging, finding more photos of sprawling Highlands landscapes online.

"I fell in love with this scenic small town and decided, firmly, from that moment onwards that I wanted to work in this beautiful community," Bohra told *The Highlander.*

It's the kind of thing Wendy Welch, Haliburton County's physician recruiter, has heard time and again from professionals interested in relocating somewhere peaceful, where doctors are afforded a better work-

Continued **'County'** on page 2

# Highlander news

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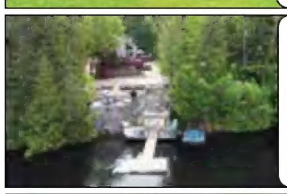

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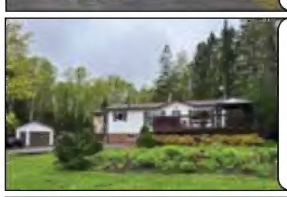

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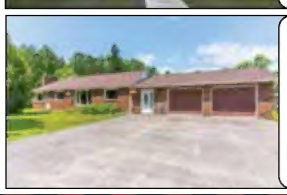

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

# County has increased recruitment incentives

Continued from page 1

life balance and standard of living.

Since the upper tier adjusted its recruitment guidelines early last year, Welch said there's been a marked increase in the number of working professionals reaching out, asking about opportunities that exist in the community. The County offers doctors up to $150,000 to relocate here, while reimbursing moving expenses up to $15,000. To qualify, physicians must commit to practising in the area for at least two years. Payments are staggered at $25,000 annually for up to six years.

There are other programs Welch can tap into, offered through the Ministry of Health. Canadian-trained physicians qualify for student loan forgiveness up to $60,000, while the recently revamped Northern Rural Recruitment and Retention Fund (NRRR) offers bonuses up to $97,000.

There are other perks too – one-year memberships to the Minden Recreation Centre and the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre, while the County maintains two properties doctors can use while they're finding a more permanent home. Welch said this is particularly helpful when medical students and locum physicians are here temporarily.

"A lot of the people I speak to are looking for a smaller community, a safe place, somewhere they feel more appreciated in their practise, where they can get to know their patients," Welch said.

Other recent additions include Dr. Harrison Bishop and Dr. Peter Faulkner at HHHS, Dr. Sharysse Kayoumedjian at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre (HFMC), and Dr. Van Der Leden at the Kinmount & District Health Centre.

## A unique welcome

Bishop is no stranger to the County, having worked intermittently at the Haliburton hospital as a locum for several years. He started working full-time at the facility July 1.

Born in rural Prince Edward County, before the vineyards when it was predominantly dairy farms and cash crops, Bishop said he feels at home in the Highlands. He's making the permanent move north after working out of hospitals in Quinte and Cobourg, saying this area, with its beautiful landscapes, is the perfect place to raise his family.

"Everyone has been so welcoming," Bishop said, noting that's not isolated to human encounters. "While sitting on our dock one evening, I noticed a beaver swimming by. Rather than slapping his tail and disappearing under the water, he decided to course back and forth in front of me for a good 10 minutes. I felt like he was welcoming me to the neighbourhood."

Faulkner has been working part-time in Haliburton since 2016, though was only available during the summer and fall as his cottage was a seasonal property. After recently upgrading the residence, the doctor has made himself available to HHHS year-round.

He was born and raised in Toronto, attending medical school at nearby McMaster University. He's worked in emergency departments in Niagara region, Hamilton and Burlington, along with a year-long stint in rural Australia.

Wendy Welch, Dr. Sharysse Kayoumedjian and Liz Danielsen. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Nothing compares to his experiences in Haliburton, though.

"I enjoy the strong sense of community – very different from city life… you get to know the people you work with," Faulkner said. "This is the only place I've worked where you can watch the deer feeding on vegetation right beside the parking lot, kind of a novelty for a city guy."

## Success story

While, geographically, Kinmount isn't within County limits, Welch said the rural health hub there qualifies for local support since it accepts patients from Haliburton County.

Alan Howard, a volunteer and lead recruiter with the Kinmount District Health Services Foundation (KDHSF) – the fundraising arm of the clinic – said he and his team have had a lot of success attracting doctors over the past few years. Dr. Lesslie Ponraja arrived from the UK in February 2023, with Van Der Leden following this past February. This is the first time the clinic has had two full-time doctors in at least six years.

Where Welch relies on advertising and job fairs for finding physicians, KDHSF utilizes a recruitment agency based in British Columbia. The firm connects interested doctors with Howard, who schedules visits. Van Der Leden made her first pitstop last July.

She's glad she followed through – admitting in a recent interview she almost cancelled after doubting whether she'd be prepared to move to a community with a population of about 500. She had spent years working in Chicago, the third most populated city in the U.S.

Van Der Leden was born and raised in Ontario and decided to return home after learning about the province's healthcare crisis. She expects to take on more than 1,000 patients.

"I can't take 4,000, but hopefully I can make a little dent," Van Der Leden said. The KDHC waitlist has more than 2,000 people, there's another 1,450 on the HFMC list, and at least 3,000 County and Kawartha Lakes residents waiting through Health Force Ontario. Howard noted KDHSF is looking to recruit a third full-time physician to further chip away at that total.

Van Der Leden's favourite thing about her new community is the people, saying, "everyone is so nice, really warm and welcoming. This has definitely been the right decision for me."

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OPP Const. Joel Imbeau listens as Dysart et al and County coun. Walt McKechnie talks about seniors' scams.

# New centre for seniors

**By Lisa Gervais**

The new Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) for the County of Haliburton was officially opened at the Seniors Seminar, hosted by MPP Laurie Scott and MP Jamie Schmale, June 25 at the Haliburton Legion.

Donna Lynn Clarke, representing the minister for seniors and accessibility, made the announcement.

SALCs are not one physical location, but rather activities and events funded by the province to be put on in various locations across the Highlands.

Clarke said the province has given a grant that provides "consistent annual funding" to the County.

Sue Tiffin, County of Haliburton's community safety and well-being plan coordinator, said the County received $46,000, as well as $10,000 for start-up funding, and $4,420 as a special grant for the 2025-26 program.

Programs are designed for older adults (age 55+) and seniors (65+) but can be intergenerational.

Tiffin added the County is the SALC operator, the local municipalities are funding partners, offering in-kind space and staff support, and SALC partners offering programming this year include: the four legions, Abbey Gardens, the Haliburton County Master Gardeners, SIRCH Community Services, the Haliburton County Public Library, the Haliburton County Community Paramedics, the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group, and local municipalities.

Tiffin said planned upcoming programming to be held between July and March include: first aid for seniors; museum tours; information sessions; nature walking tours; a pen pal program; a forest bathing session; tech help workshops; disc golf lessons; cooking classes; board game and cards drop-in events, and a variety of recreational programs. SALC programming in Haliburton County will take place at locations throughout the Highlands, as well as virtually/online.

Clarke said the centres were "designed to build capacity; allow you to try new ideas; form strategic partnerships with other senior-serving organizations, and to meet the needs of seniors in your community."

She added she had seen first-hand how the program "brings together senior-serving organizations to bring meaningful collaboration to address local community needs and it is truly transformational when the program comes to a community, so I am so excited for you."

MPP Laurie Scott added, "we love that Haliburton County is the newest seniors active living centre. It will offer seniors from the entire community the opportunity to stay fit, active, healthy and socially connected through various activities."

Information will be available at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/SALC, in local newspapers and on radio, and through printed calendars available throughout the County.

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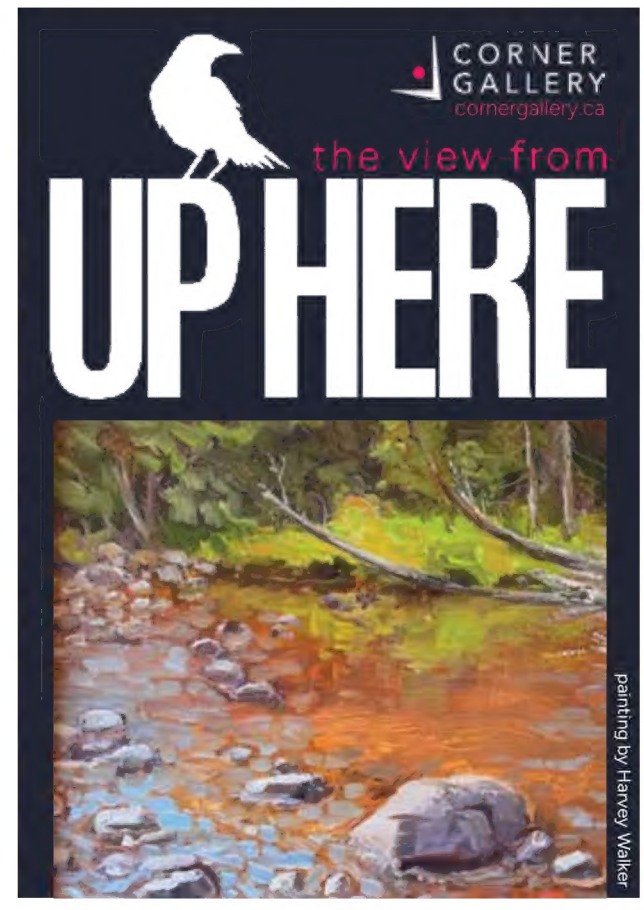

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# Highlander news

# Council reconsiders office renovations

**By Lisa Gervais**

County council will reconsider options for two properties it owns on Newcastle Street in Minden, after a motion to reconsider won the day at a June 25 meeting.

Coun. Walt McKechnie asked for a rethink; it was seconded by coun. Murray Fearrey and supported by coun. Bob Carter and warden Dave Burton.

After a lengthy debate, council eventually passed a motion for staff to get an appraisal of the former land registry office at 12 Newcastle St., and costings for an expansion at the existing council office at 11 Newcastle St.

It flipped a May 28 decision to essentially spend about $1.145 million on the current headquarters, with $600,000 being for accessibility upgrades.

Even before they got to reconsideration last Wednesday, deputy warden Liz Danielsen was all for squashing McKechnie's suggestion. She said council had been talking about the project for years and the motion to renovate had been passed 7-1. "I would wonder why we are going to discuss it again? I don't believe that we should be."

Fearrey said, "I'm telling you what I'm hearing on the street: to spend that kind of money over there (12 Newcastle St.) in these times, when there's maybe an alternative, maybe, maybe not, it's not very smart." He pressed for an exploration of expanding out the back of the current building.

Coun. Lisa Schell said "her head was going to explode" as council had voted against doing anything with the former land registry office for now but to spend money at the existing building for more offices.

And coun. Cec Ryall said "the relevancy is how much space do we need here for staff to do their job effectively. We're being told, categorically, they need more room to do that. We need the room in here for staff. Case closed."

The County headquarters at 11 Newcastle St. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Carter said he would like a clear list of needs, and then council could look at the options again. CAO Gary Dyke said the information had been presented, and he was unclear what council was asking for.

Fearrey suggested getting 12 Newcastle St. valuated, and looking into an addition at 11 Newcastle St.

McKechnie agreed with Fearrey's assertion there's room to expand at 11 Newcastle St. He would prefer selling 12 Newcastle St. as well. He also wants to keep the County council chambers at the current office, not share a space with Minden Hills, which was discussed at the May meeting

Danielsen said they appeared to be "dinosaurs. Just gone around and around and around in circles. We've given clear direction to staff and now we're back to the beginning, square one."

Dyke said they would have to cancel an RFP for the job council voted to do a little over a month ago.

Carter said, "let's all get on the same page and do it right."

## Library report

Haliburton County Public Library CEO Andrea Brown told council they had six significant achievements in 2024 as she presented the annual report.

She said they hosted their first community 'touch a truck' event; welcomed 92 class visits to Cardiff, Minden Hills and Wilberforce branches, reaching approximately 250 children; participated in a province-wide transition to new interlibrary loan software; implemented new book club set reservation software; proposed and implemented a staffing model review to achieve significant targeted savings; and celebrated the Dorset branch grand opening Oct. 25, 2024.

She noted that in the fourth quarter, circulation in Dorset more than doubled, with the branch making up 21 per cent of new users across the service.

Other highlights were: a Diwali festival, teddy bear picnic, mandala art, make your own monster, an author visit by Phyllis Bordo and Café Espanol.

"We organized 584 programs at library branches throughout the County, welcoming attendees of all ages," Brown said. Their online presence saw 66,640 items digitally circulated. Annual physical circulation for 2024 was 80,487 items and 155 book club set checkouts, or 1,240 books. The number of cardholders rose to 7,402 from 6,973.

Board chair, David O'Brien, thanked the County for its annual funding.

"It makes a very big difference to this community that we can keep our libraries going strong. We're not all about books anymore…we always will be…but we're about a whole bunch of other things we do that kind of go under the radar; things the community looks for from us. We're a small library. We do a great deal of work in the community and the numbers are pretty significant, what we can accomplish."

## Consider four-way stop

Following a serious motor vehicle accident in Eagle Lake June 24, McKechnie asked the County to consider a four-way stop at Eagle Lake Road (County Road 6) and Haliburton Lake Road (County Road 14).

McKechnie said, "I've seen a lot of close calls over the last 30-40 years. I sure as heck don't expect the County to put in lights. I do believe in four-way stops. The one in Fenelon Falls is a great example of how a four-way stop works."

A report will be brought to a future council meeting.

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**COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON**

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

July 31- Regular Council Meeting
August 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

**WATCH FOR WORKERS**

Construction season is here. Keeping a work site safe includes everyone. Slow down and watch for workers when approaching road work sites.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY**

Mark your calendars for our next HHW day taking place Saturday, July 19, 2025 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

**MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE**

*Mountain Lake at a Glance – The Hidden Nature of Paint,* an exhibit by Gord Peteran, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until July 12. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

Join us for a special screening of *Incandescence (2024)* at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, July 3 at 1:00 pm. The documentary explores fire as a force of both destruction and renewal. Township of Minden Hills' Fire Chief, Don Kruger, will give a short introduction before the film, sharing local insights on fire safety and community preparedness. Admission is free, and all ages are welcome. No pre-registration is required. The documentary is provided courtesy of the National Film Board (NFB).

Join the UFOs (Unfinished Objects) craft group at the Cultural Centre on Friday, July 4 at 1 pm. All are welcome to bring their crafty projects to work on.

The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are now open for the season! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am, Tuesday to Saturday. Coming this week: Thursday – No-Bake Salt Dough craft, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone, Saturday – Mini Scarecrow craft. We are open Tuesday to Saturday, 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

**DROP IN PROGRAMS**

Take a look at the new summer drop-in program schedule now online at www.mindenhills.ca/reacreation or at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena.

**REQUEST FOR TENDERS: CONSTRUCTION OF THE SCOTCH LINE TRANSFER STATION**

Qualified contractors are invited to submit a tender for the construction of the new Scotch Line Transfer Station. Visit https://www.mindenhills.ca/en/local-government/bid-opportunities.aspx for the Tender details and documents.

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Dysart et al is undertaking a multi-million-dollar expansion of the Haliburton Wastewater Treatment Plant. *File.*

# Sewage plant expansion could take up to three years

**By Mike Baker**

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey said the township will be looking for provincial support to fund an estimated $12 million to $15 million redevelopment of the Haliburton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

An expansion of the site has been debated behind closed doors for some time, with Fearrey confirming talks began shortly after the October 2022 municipal election. In January, the township approved a $192,000 spend to bring in Ottawa-based consultant Clearford Water Systems to assist with design and regulatory approval.

John Levie, Clearford's vice president of engineering, provided a first public update on the project at a June 24 council meeting. He said a proposal to increase capacity by about 50 per cent, to 2,375 connections from the current 1,575 – an 800-unit increase – will need to be ratified by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP).

He said there are four phases to the expansion – design and approvals, where they're currently at; securing amended environmental compliance approval (ECA) from the Ontario government; tendering out design; then constructing the addition. He told council this will be a multi-year process, estimating completion, if approved, in late 2027 or early 2028.

"The reason we're looking at expansion of the plant is based on capacity that's already in use and the capacity allocated for existing infill and proposed development," Levie said. "It's hitting a level now where the MECP will compel expansion before they permit any additional sewage be added to the system."

The original plant was built in 1975, servicing Haliburton village. An expansion was first considered in the early 1980s, extending the system to resorts on the north shore of Lake Kashagawigamog. That was completed in 1995.

Levie said he has confirmed with MECP that the environmental assessment (EA) done for that extension, more than 30 years ago, is still valid providing the township follows the long-term expansion plans outlined in the initial design.

"The plant was built with expansion in mind. Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, the firm that completed that plan, pre-identified and pre-selected technology and processes that will support the plant going forward… the MECP confirmed the existing class EA is still suitable for the proposed expansion," Levie said.

During last week's meeting, coun. Pat Casey asked if alternative, more modern technologies had been considered for the build over the current activated sludge process for biological nutrient removal (BNR). He brought up membrane bioreactors, a process that uses micro or ultra filtration to separate solid and liquid waste. They're seen as an effective solution for systems near ecologically sensitive areas.

Levie said those membranes enhance BNR systems and don't replace them. Going down that road would add another two years and between $4 million and $6 million to the project.

While most municipal systems use a three-step method for filtration, there have been proposals to add another step to further purify wastewater, akin to reverse osmosis. It would more than double the cost, adding another $10 million to $20 million.

"There's not a lot of benefits to either at this stage," Levie said. "You've got a very environmentally sound facility, it's got tight affluent limits going out, the lowest of any plant in Minden, Huntsville and Muskoka area."

He told council all design work will be complete in the fall, then Clearford will engage with MECP. Pre-consultation requests are taking three-to-five months, with an 18-month wait for ECA amendment.

## Project vital for growth

In a follow-up interview June 27, Fearrey told *The Highlander* that development of the 91.5-acre property on County Road 21 that Dysart bought for $1.725 million in July 2023 hinges on the sewage plant expansion.

With a 10-figure sticker price, the mayor is hoping the Ontario government will contribute to the rebuild.

"They've laid a lot of money out because they want more housing. Well, we can't do more housing of any major density here unless we cut sewers (don't provide sewer hookups), so I think we would qualify for some provincial money," Fearrey said.

The township is also investigating a public-private partnership to pay for the project, which it did back in 1995. He said they will have a better idea on costs and potential opportunities once the project goes to tender, likely next year.

Fearrey said some initial design work is underway for the CR21 property. Conversations are continuing with interested developers, with the mayor expecting firm proposals later this year. He believes the land could accommodate at least 100 new homes.

"We want to get going, but there are rules we have to follow and steps we have to take. The first thing is the sewage plant, then we can really focus on what's next for that land," Fearrey said.

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

**What's Happening in your county...**

**July 4 & 11** Astronomy - Experience - Hosted at Haliburton Forest Wild Life Reserve

**July 5 & 12 I**ntro to Wild Edible Mushrooms - Experience - Hosted by Yours Outdoors

**July 5** Girls Nite Out - Live Entertainment - Hoste at Abbey Gardens

**July 5** Quote the Raven - Live Entertainment - Hosted at the Music Room

**July 6, 7 & 8** Urine-Town, The Musical Theatre - Highlands Summer Festival

**July 8 & 15** Sculpture Forest Guided Tours - FREE - Experience - Hosted at the Haliburton Sculpture Forest

**July 9, 10 & 11** The Fitzgeralds - Live Entertainment - hosted at Northern Lights Pavilion

**July 11** The Janzen Boys - Live Entertainment - Hosted at the Dominion Hotel

**July 12** Featured Bookapalooza Event - hosted at Minden Community Centre

**July 12** Wellness Event - Hosted at Abbey Gardens

**July 12** Fleetwood Mac Mania - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Kennisis Lake Marina

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

# Highlander news

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

## MINDEN HILL NEWS

Jack Brezina has been named Minden Hills senior citizen of the year. *File.*

### Brezina 'senior of year'

Jack Brezina was named Minden Hills' Ontario Senior of the Year during a presentation at the start of the May 26 council meeting.

Mayor Bob Carter said Brezina was a very deserving recipient and the honour recognized his outstanding contributions to the township.

Brezina thanked council and "everyone who was behind getting this handed to me."

He joked his one reservation was that it was a seniors' award. "I'm not ready to be … maybe it's time."

He said he and wife, Pat, came to Minden in 1979; 46 years ago, "which was amazing. We came because of the newspaper (*The Minden Times*) and it looked after us." He said it helped him and Pat to raise their family.

"We decided this was a great place to stay and we're still here." He said they had been married 52 years.

Brezina added he could not have won the award without family, and Pat in particular. She was his proof-reader at the *Times*.

"We've had a lot of fun; it's been a really interesting experience." He added he works with other seniors, "standing beside him, leading him on" and he appreciates their efforts.

### Vitality working group

Carter said they have a new name for an initiative to breathe life into the town, coming up with the Minden village vitality working group.

He said the idea emanated during community engagement with individuals and businesses during strategic planning.

He said they stressed the theme, and priority, "of creating a long-term vision plan for village improvements."

He added the area has unique retail offerings, restaurants, social gathering spaces, and recurring events.

While they await the strategic plan, "I think there's an immediate need to focus attention on strengthening our downtown."

Carter said he would chair the group, along with both ward one councillors, Ivan Ingram and Shirley Johannessen, as well as community members, and business and service club representatives.

Johannessen suggested the primary focus should not be around businesses, but creating vibrancy, life and beauty in the town, such as activities or spaces for families to enjoy." She said this would organically help businesses to flourish." She suggested evening meetings.

### Septic program continuing

After being halted in 2024, Minden Hills is proceeding with a revised septic maintenance inspection program.

Chief building official, Eric Guay, said staff have met with local industry leaders in sewage system installation and maintenance in an effort to revamp the program "and establish a sustainable format moving forward."

He added, "staff are proposing to complete the approximate remaining 2,900 properties utilizing qualified industry professionals to conduct the septic system inspections."

The proposed program would inspect greywater pits, leaching beds, and holding tanks. They are a hybrid level three and four, which would not require mandatory pump outs.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she would like outhouses added.

Guay said it would begin in May 2026 and be finished by the beginning of November.

Staff said the matter would be discussed further for the 2026 budget.

### Roofs need repairing

Guay said both the Minden Curling Club and cultural centre roofs need repairing.

He asked council for the go-ahead to hire Tatham Engineering to do the pre-roof work at a cost of $37,300 plus HST.

During the 2025 budget discussions, council approved $257,500 be paid from reserves to offset the cost of the curling club roof system, with the expectation that the remaining funds might be covered by grant funding. However, there have been no grants.

Council also approved $100,000 for the redesign and reconstruction of the cultural centre roof in 2025.

Guay said, "the true cost of both projects will not be known until such time as respective request for tender (RFP) have been received and reviewed. Once tendered prices are known, staff will present to council options for funding any costs above the 2025 allocated project budgets."

Guay hopes the work can be done this year.

### STR update

Guay asked that council approve a one-year, part-time position (contract) dedicated to assist with the implementation of the STR program.

He said Algonquin Highlands has one full-time bylaw officer for dedicated enforcement and administration; Highlands East has a 30-hour a week helper for its program; and Dysart et al has hired an additional full-time bylaw officer for STRs while Minden Hills has not hired a STR person, but the work is being done by existing staff.

Guay said the township has received 95 STR applications, 73 temporary licences have been issued, and 22 full licences have been approved.

He said the extra duties are impacting staff and the work they can do and they need the extra 24 hour a week support with outstanding STR applications.

Coun. Sayne said the money for the part-timer would come from STR licence revenue. Council approved the ask.

### Strong mayors … again

Mayor Bob Carter outlined his plans to use the Strong Mayors Act in Minden Hills.

He said he would delegate the power to create and disband committees and to name the chairs and vice chairs to council. He added he would delegate to the CAO all employment matters. He plans to delegate the organizational structure to the CAO. He will ask the CAO and staff to prepare annual budgets, with public input and then council discussion.

He said his guiding principles would be in the best interests of Minden Hills; and were similar to what Dysart et al, and other councils, have done.

*(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)*

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# HHHS won't merge with Ross

**By Mike Baker**

Speaking at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) annual general meeting June 26, board chair Irene Odell said she believes the organization's accomplishments during the 2024-25 fiscal year "have been nothing short of extraordinary."

Key highlights include the onboarding of one new permanent ER physician, expanded hours and availability for one more, and the hiring of eight nurses, 20 PSWs, and 35 other staff members; opening of the CT and mammography units; and launch of the Minden Health Hub, which recently added gynecology services and an internal medicine clinic.

HHHS also secured accreditation with commendation through Accreditation Canada in its standard four-year re-examination.

President and CEO Veronica Nelson, who is leaving her position in September, said surveyors, "acknowledged a significant positive change in culture… [and] raved about the implementation of electronic medical record systems, including Epic and Alayacare, and the positive impacts on improved documentation, flow of consistent information, and ability to use data for informed decision-making."

As of March 31, HHHS had 387 employees who worked 490,000 hours, with an 84.1 per cent retention rate. This has seen the organization's reliance on agency staffing drop from 13.9 per cent a couple of years ago to 1.3 per cent last fiscal year.

Nelson noted that has been a considerable factor in HHHS improving its financial position over the past 12 months. Chief Financial Officer Ulvi Iskhagi-Bayat said the organization achieved a $2.5 million net surplus for the year, thanks in part to an additional $10 million in one-time funding from the ministries of health and long-term care - $42.3 million compared to $32.5 million in 2023-24.

In total, the organization brought in $48.4 million in revenues and reported expenses of $45.7 million. Wages and benefits made up two thirds of the hospital's costs, climbing to just over $30 million from $23.1 million last fiscal – a result of having 63 additional employees on the books.

HHHS' net debt at year end is just under $3.1 million, with a net working capital deficit of $4.7 million, which Iskhagi-Bayat said was driven by the organization's sizeable operating deficit between 2022 and 2024.

HHHS CEO and president Veronica Nelson said there are no plans to merge HHHS with Lindsay's Ross Memorial Hospital or the Peterborough Regional Health Centre. *File.*

Nelson said she's continuing to advocate for increases to HHHS base funding, upping the amount it's entitled to from MoH, in place of continuous one-time contributions.

During a public Q&A, Nelson was asked if this would be a good time to consider amalgamating HHHS with Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay, given she'll be taking the reins there in the fall. She said that question was put to Ross and Peterborough Regional Health Centre figureheads recently during HHHS hospital master plan submission, with both entities saying it didn't make fiscal sense.

"It doesn't mean we won't deepen our partnerships, but [we won't] integrate," Nelson said.

## The numbers

The number of emergency department visits dropped nine per cent, down to 15,967 from 17,480, though Nelson said that was to be expected with the closure of the Minden ER. There were 625 admissions, an increase of seven per cent, with patients spending a combined 5,677 days in the hospital, up 11 per cent.

HHHS ran an occupancy rate of 104 per cent, up from 93 per cent.

"That means we had patients in unconventional spaces or in halls. That's not good when you're a patient," Nelson said. The Haliburton hospital has 15 inpatient beds. "Adding beds to our hospital is a key part of our master plan."

As of March 31, the Haliburton site did 10,228 x-rays, 2,995 CT scans, 2,035 ultrasounds, and 562 echocardiography exams.

Under community support services, HHHS ran 7,652 medical/program-related trips for 412 clients, completed 20,486 Meals on Wheels deliveries, racked 16,389 hours in assisted living, adult day program and supportive housing services, and recorded 663 hospice and 681 foot care clinic visits.

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**July 13 | 1 pm**
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**July 15 | 10 am**
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**July 16 | 10 am**
Forest Bathing Hosted at Abbey Gardens

**Drop-in Cards & Board Games**

**Mondays | 1 pm and Thursdays | 7 pm**
Hosted at Minden Legion

**Wednesdays | 6:30 pm**
Hosted at Dorset Rec Centre

**Fridays 10 am**
Hosted at Haliburton Legion

**Saturdays 2:30 pm**
Hosted at Wilberforce Legion

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# Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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## OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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# Work still to be done

By Mike Baker

What a difference a year can make.

It was early 2024 when Haliburton County council decided to adjust its guidelines and policies for physician recruitment. While the upper tier had, for many years, offered perks to doctors willing to relocate and practise in the Highlands, there was little uptake.

Often competing with dozens of other communities for a single body, Haliburton County found itself on the outside looking in, struggling to turn short visits into firm, full-time commitments. Recently, I caught up with Wendy Welch, the County's physician recruitment coordinator, who shared details on how she's been able to flip that narrative on its head.

Since January 2024, five new doctors have arrived in the Highlands – three at the Haliburton hospital and one each at the Haliburton Family Medical Centre (HFMC) and Kinmount & District Health Centre (KDHC). Welch played a key role in recruiting four of the five, while the County's updated policies helped guide a second new family doctor to Kinmount in as many years.

The County offers doctors up to $150,000 to relocate, paid over six years. It used to be that doctors had to commit to practising here for at least four years, but council opted to reduce that to two. Moving expenses are now reimbursed up to $15,000, while Welch has taken an even greater role in helping new hires assimilate.

Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, Welch said many doctors are looking for smaller communities where they can settle with their families. Somewhere picturesque that promotes a healthy work-life balance.

Dr. Ali Akbar Bohra, one of the new ER docs, said he knew he wanted to move to Haliburton as soon as he saw an ad promoting the area in the *British Medical Journal*. That's another relatively new concept Welch has latched onto – looking overseas.

She stepped up to assist Bohra with his immigration, learning about the processes involved with securing work permits and permanent residency. Once here, she helps physicians find a place to live, get their driver's licence and a vehicle, and form connections with their community. On the family side, she provides information on schools and potential job opportunities for spouses and children.

She also hosts an annual appreciation dinner for local physicians.

It's clearly working. Earlier this year, Veronica Nelson, president and CEO of Haliburton Highlands Health Services said the local ER has a full complement of physicians for the first time in many, many years.

Dr. Sharysse Kayoumedjian took over Dr. Christina Stephenson's practise at HFMC in March, preventing hundreds more patients from landing on its waitlist, which already boasts 1,450 people. The provincially operated Health Care Connect estimates there are at least 3,000 people in the County and Kawartha Lakes awaiting a family doctor.

In time, Dr. Van Der Leden's arrival in Kinmount is expected to half the KDHC waitlist from 2,000 to 1,000 people.

While it's important to take a moment and reflect on the successes, there's still much to be done. On its website, HHHS says the area has an urgent need for five more family doctors. Welch is regularly fielding calls from interested parties and has scheduled several other visits this year. We hope that leads to even more feel-good stories soon.

## HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

# 'The best place to raise a family'

**By Susan Tromanhauser**

Ebonny Guy looked up and couldn't see the sky – just buildings. She looked down and saw only pavement. She felt trapped in a concrete cave. Guy knew it was time to go home – back to Gooderham.

After high school, Guy went to Toronto to be certified in aesthetics, and stayed to enhance her skills by working at elite, high-end spas. She also developed a strong friend group allowing her to experience the best of the city's social life. Being in her 20s, she felt she was "having the best time" of her life, but missed the community and rural life of Haliburton County. After five years, she felt claustrophobic in the big city but health concerns in her family was the final push she needed to return home.

At the age of seven, Guy had moved with her family to Gooderham and was enrolled at the "little school there." She was part of the last graduating class before moving on to J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School for Grades 7 and 8 and then onward to Hal High. Being a person of colour, she experienced racial slurs but Guy never felt bullied or ostracized. She had a large friend group and at graduation was voted by her peers to be the funniest female.

Now in her 30s, she has been back in Haliburton County for more than a decade and is satisfied with career and family. In Toronto, she was mentored by the best in the aesthetics business, professionals who took the business seriously. Upon her return to the Highlands, she began working at Wind in the Willow and found working with spa owner, Sylvia Holland, to be equally rewarding. "Sylvia is the best. She knows how to do it all and is serious about high standards." In fact, through Hollands' mentorship, Guy is inspired to have her own spa one day.

Guy is now a mother of a four-year-old daughter and two-year-old son. Raising her children in the Highlands is the right choice for Guy. Her children are living in a beautiful, clean area, "surrounded by people who love them and care about them." Guy is happy they are living a simple childhood, giving an example of a recent evening roasting marshmallows over a bonfire. The only downside - the swatting of mosquitoes.

She admits she once took Haliburton County for granted, now realizing it is the best place to raise a family. She acknowledges the city provides more opportunities but Guy has anxiety by just the thought of her children using the TTC to get to school. Guy laughs when she says the only anxiety she has in the Highlands is the idea her daughter will never find someone appropriate to date, her father has such deep roots in the area she is probably related to everyone. Guy points out her daughter's father is also one of those students in that last graduating class from the little school in Gooderham.

Ebonny Guy. *Submitted.*

*Corrections: In 'Couple caught in 'super scary' storm, The Highlander, June 26, 2025, we said Kathy and Jim Chatterton live in West Guilford. It's actually Eagle Lake. In addition, two tow trucks came from West Guildford Towing, one for the 5th wheel one for the truck. Their daughter Jenny, from Maple Lake, came and picked them up and brought them home.*

*In 'Born in a thunderstorm … been a storm ever since' The Highlander, June 26, we said Betty Douglas' birthday was July 15. It was June 15. Also, the birthday party at her son's was on June 8, not on Father's Day.*

# HHSS grads

Top left: Valedictorian Miles Bascombe. Top right: School letters were awarded to: Annabelle Borgdorff, Erika Hoare and Lillian Ramsdale. Middle left: The grads starting with 'A' and ending with part of 'G'. Middle right: The grads from 'G' to 'M.' Bottom left: The grads from 'M' to 'Y.' Bottom right: Chloe Hartwig receives her diploma. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

# Red Hawks embrace change

**By Lisa Gervais**

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School valedictorian Miles Bascombe said he had moved house during his life, and with that comes the fear of change.

"It's terrifying."

However, he has always persevered during the transitions, so knows he will be okay.

"The same goes for every other change that will take place now that we are graduating," Bascombe told his Grade 12 peers June 26.

"Switching schools, switching routines, switching jobs, living in a new town. I know that I will make it through and I know that our graduates will too, like we all have many times before. They say that change is as good as a rest. I sure hope so."

After thanking everyone, Bascombe said, "what a wonderful night it has been; to see our graduates walk across the stage, watching everyone get their moment that they worked so hard to achieve, is truly amazing."

He noted grads' perseverance through freak weather, COVID-19, conflicts between Russia and Ukraine and Israel and Palestine. There have also been family deaths and sicknesses, addiction, lack of motivation, mental and physical health issues, financial issues and stress. "But every graduate here today fought through their struggles."

He said as Red Hawks they'd learned their talents and shortcomings.

"Graduates, if you don't believe in yourself, take time to remember your greatest high school achievement.

"Our time here will never be forgotten in this special little County. We had it good here. When change comes, you will always remember the good old days at Hal High. Do not be sad for what you lost, be happy for what you've had."

Master of ceremonies, vice principal Martin Gage, said graduation is a rite of passage. He said students began to cross the stage for their diplomas as students, but re-emerged as adults.

Trustee Gary Brohman told grads they're going to be "all-stars because their family and friends who graduated from HHSS are. "Work hard, be enthusiastic, live life with passion."

Melissa Stephens spoke on behalf of the scholarship committee, thanking the "generous people" of Haliburton County who contributed to awards and bursaries, including the inaugural Dan Gimon Memorial Apprenticeship Bursary.

Principal Jennifer Mills told the grads, "it has been a joy to watch you grow into the people you are today. I can't wait to hear about your future successes."

# JDH & SBES grads

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Left: Teacher Andrew Dawson and vice principal Teressa Bird take a selfie with some of the graduates. Right: Kendall Park won three awards: principal's award for student leadership; female athlete of the year, and award of outstanding distinction. Pictured with teacher Parker Smolen. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

## Cougars to become Red Hawks

**By Lisa Gervais**

Donning Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawk ball caps, J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School teacher Andrew Dawson, and vice principal Teressa Bird, concluded a June 24 graduation ceremony by symbolically sending their charges up the hill to the big school.

Dawson said they looked forward to seeing the grads in future, "just down the road at Hal High," hearing about their first summer jobs, prepping for Grade 9 exams, sporting events, and eventually about drivers' licences, trades, colleges and universities.

He further told the students, "life is a journey. Try your best to be present. It might seem difficult, but take risks. Laugh. Make good choices.

"It has been an honour to be part of your lives. We wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavours," Dawson added.

Bird advised, "make friends, dream, be grateful, and most of all, be happy."

Trustee Gary Brohman told students to "get to school, and go to class." He also coaxed them to believe in themselves and get involved at high school. "You think it's a long time, but it just scoots by."

He encouraged them to ask for things, and remember that, amid a world of social media, and bullying, "your parents will give you unconditional love when things go bad. Just ask."

Principal David Waito expressed pride in the graduating class. He said staff and teachers had seen their perseverance, especially through COVID-19, and honoured their accomplishments. He encouraged them to "unplug" from devices and be present.

Valedictorian Travis Rowe said while looking forward to high school, he wanted to reflect on some of the graduating classes' memories, and the people who got them there. He thanked individual teachers for their support and inspiration. He also thanked staff.

Rowe reflected on how COVID-19 impacted their learning and how a return to normalcy was welcome.

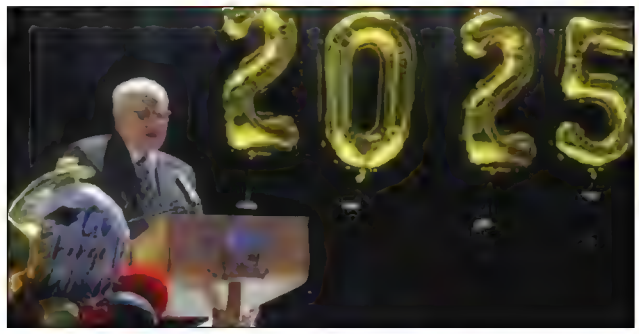
"We are going into Grade 9. We might be scared, but we're also very excited. We will have even more opportunities … JDH has prepared us to be kind and successful in whatever we choose to do."

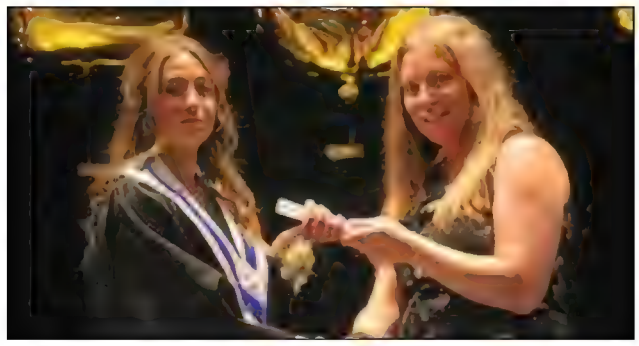
## Put your hands together

Hundreds lined the walls and stretched out into the playground at Stuart Baker Elementary School June 25 for the annual end-of-year clap-out, recognizing Grade 3 students graduating to J.D. Hodgson Elementary. Music filled the air as the approximately 50 students danced their way through the school and out the front door one final time.

Above: Grade 3 French Immersion teacher Mme. Adrienne Brown leads her class during the clap-out. Inset: Harper Kadlovski connects with a high-five. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

# ASES grads



Above: Archie Stouffer Elementary School graduates Adiya Mills, Hudson Meyer, Elyse Kernohan, Piper Kelly and Blake Hutchinson show some excitement before the June 20 ceremony. Right top: TLDSB trustee Gary Brohman congratulated graduates as they prepare to head to high school. Right bottom: Addison Kulas receives her certificate from Grade 8 teacher Angela Pilgrim. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

# Grads ready for Hal High

**By Mike Baker**

In his final speech as Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) principal, Mike Gervais told the graduating class of 2024-25 to dream big and put in the work as they prepare for high school.

It was a full house in the ASES gym June 20 as the community celebrated the school's 64th graduating class. Forty-six students crossed the stage, marking the end of their elementary school journey, with 16 making the honour roll – achieving an 80 per cent average or higher in their Grade 8 year.

"It's been a privilege watching this incredible group grow for the last six years. When you first walked through our doors, you were small, wide-eyed… you're now taller, wiser and ready to take on high school," Gervais said, who is taking over at Cardiff and Wilberforce elementaries.

Having been at ASES for six years, joining as vice principal in 2019 before moving up to the top job in 2022, Gervais said the school, and its students, have made a big impression on him.

There will be further change next year as Michelle Kernohan, the current vice principal, is also moving on. She has spent the past 15 years at ASES, teaching Grade 8 before becoming a VP in 2023. Lauren Alleway, who spent a year as VP at ASES in 2022-23, is rejoining as principal with Shannon Smith the new VP.

Gary Brohman, the County's trustee with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB), was at the ceremony and thanked the parents in attendance for "sending us the best kids."

Turning his attention to the graduates, Brohman encouraged them to pursue all that high school has to offer next fall.

"Get involved – arts, drama, music, sports, the list goes on. There's no shortage of ways to connect with people, learn and have fun," Brohman said.

Valedictorian Hudson Meyer said he and his classmates have learned a lot during their years at ASES.

"When some of us first came here, we couldn't even tie our shoes. We've learned so much since then," Meyer said. "Most of us have gone from age four to 14 at Archie Stouffer. That's 10 years with most of the same people in the exact same building. Sadly, I can't say I've been here for all those years, but I've been here long enough to say this is a great place, with many wonderful people.

"I believe we'll all succeed in high school. The best is yet to come."

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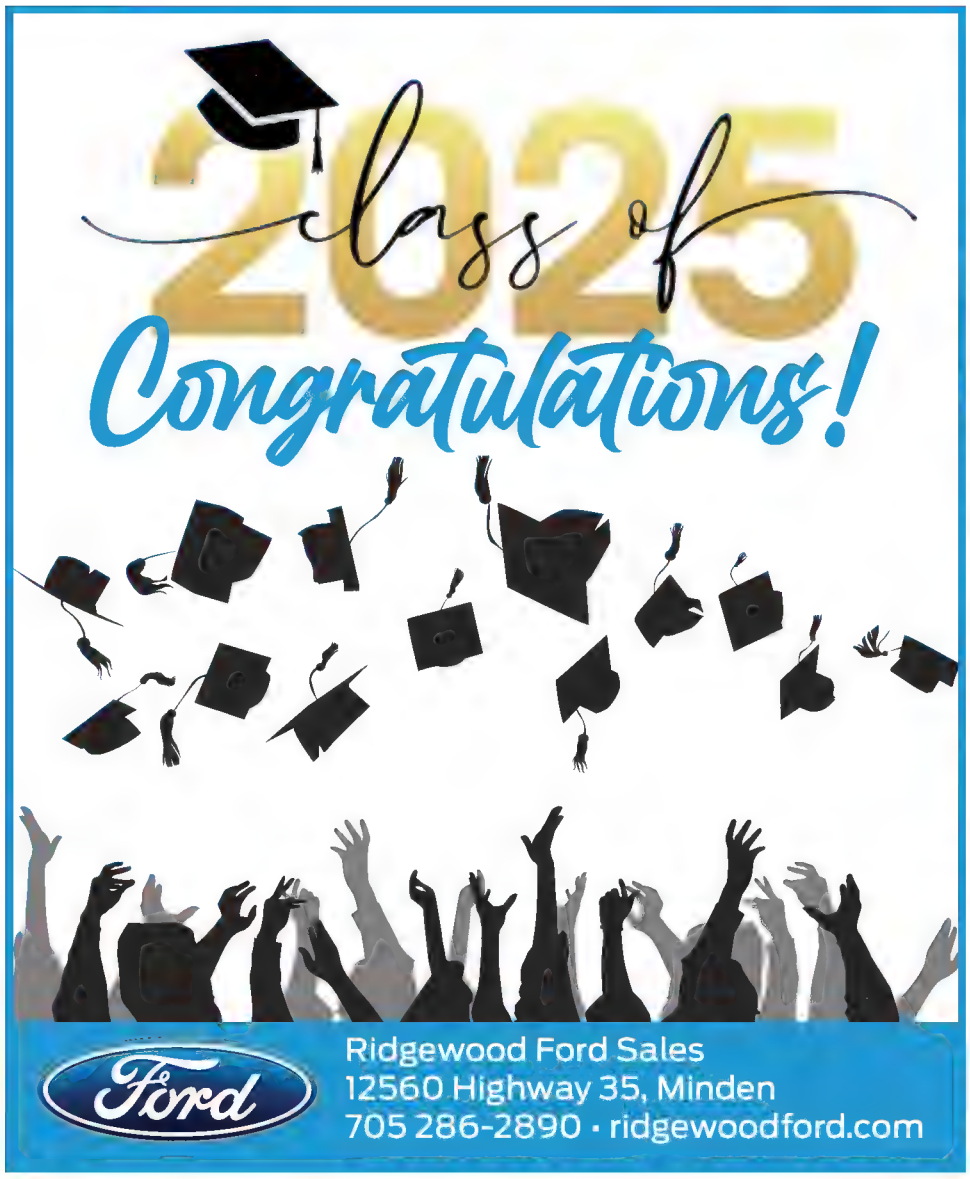
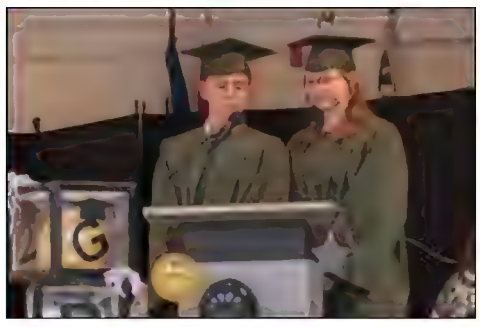
# Wilberforce & Cardiff grads





## Job well done

The Highlands East community was out in full force at Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre June 25, celebrating the 10 students graduating from Wilberforce Elementary School. Principal Gord Wood, retiring this year, congratulated the students on their achievement as they prepare for life as high schoolers. Mike Gervais is taking over as principal in the fall.

Top: The graduating class of 2025 soak up applause on-stage. Bottom left: Christopher Fillier and fellow co-valedictorian Shiva MacIsaac shared some standout memories with classmates and those in attendance. Bottom right: Co-valedictorian Fillier received the prestigious Taylor Donaldson Leadership Award for his contributions to the school community, presented by teacher Laura Fideau. *Photos by Ryan Roediger.*

## Cardiff celebrates its own

Cardiff elementary school held its senior kindergarten graduation June 24. “Congratulations. We wish you all the best in Grade 1,” secretary/library clerk, Cathy Graham said. Pictured from left to right are: Karter Suss, Tosh Flynn, Freya Blaney, Marley MacFarlane-Finnigan, Hunter Mathewson, Colt Mitchell, Larkyn White, and Riley Nimmo. Not pictured: Eva Guilherme. *Submitted.*

# Adult ed grads

Above: The Haliburton Adult and Alternative Education graduating class of 2025. Inset: Hozayfa Wiso is all smiles as he collects his high school diploma, with retiring teacher Greg Shantz and outgoing principal Lisa Uuldriks watching. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

## Adult ed grad a story of hard work

**By Mike Baker**

Addressing the Haliburton Adult and Alternative Education Centre's class of 2025, Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) superintendent Jay MacJanet said he has a lot of respect for the obstacles mature learners often overcome.

"It's truly an honour to celebrate the achievements of this graduating class… you've weathered assignments, paced projects, and survived a random but significant ice storm to get here. You've shown resilience and heart, so today is your day," MacJanet said.

"One of the things I love about coming to these graduations is hearing all the personal stories, about the journey and the challenges you've overcome. The skills you need to navigate through life take perseverance to refine. You've stayed focused on your goal, so let me congratulate you as you step into your next chapter," he added.

Twelve of this year's 19 graduates piled into McKeck's in Haliburton June 25 to mark the latest step in their educational journey.

Among them was Joslyn Balson, who gave the graduate address, saying this year's class have different reasons for being in adult ed – some had young children to raise, others needed to work to support their families, while a few grappled with devastating loss.

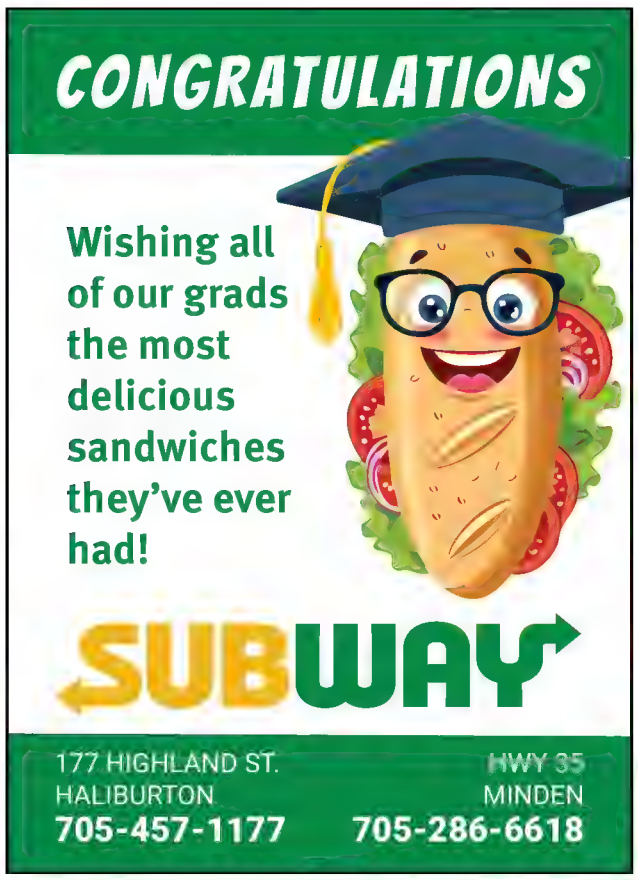
Pointing to her classmates, she said they're all living proof that the adult ed system works.

"When education adapts to the needs of students, everyone can succeed," Balson said. "Success shouldn't be limited to people within the mainstream environment. Our graduation today proves that when education is flexible and meets people where they are, it makes a huge difference."

Haliburton adult ed teacher Lori Sargent paid tribute to all graduates, though reserved special praise for Hozayfa Wiso, a Syrian refugee who, after several years of work and learning, finally earned his high school diploma.

Wiso landed in the program with a limited knowledge of English but now converses with clients and staff with ease at his job at Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC. She said he started there as a co-op student, which turned into paid employment and, now, an apprenticeship.

"Your charm and hard work win people over… you've had a tough life, but we're really proud of you and what you've accomplished," Sargent said.



CONGRATULATIONS
Wishing all of our grads the most delicious sandwiches they've ever had!
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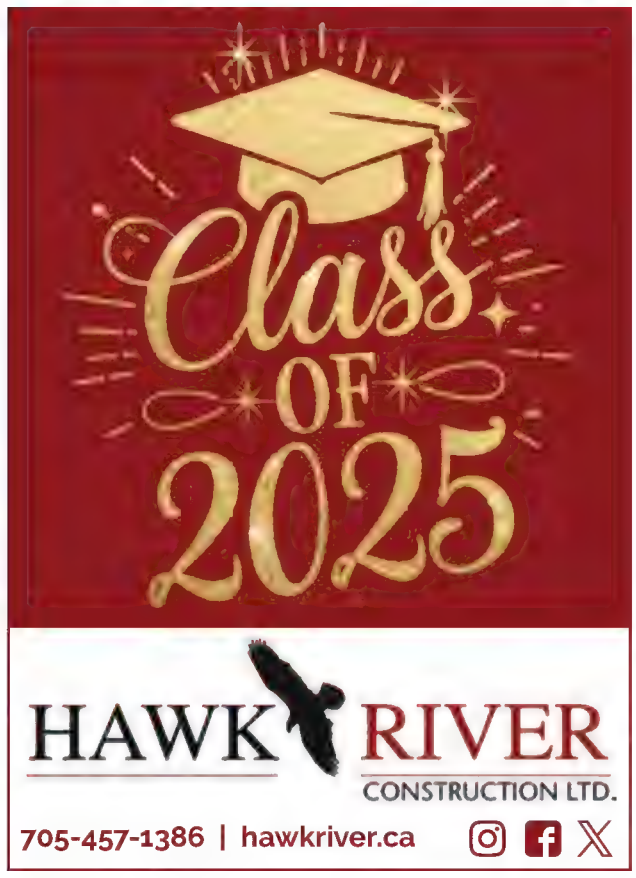

# Canada day

## Oh Canada!

The township of Minden Hills hosted its annual Canada Day event Tuesday. The ever-popular fishing derby was back with tons of prizes. There were vendors and exhibitors; an antique car show by the Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers; a fashion show; cupcakes; ice cream; rubber duck race, and activities at the cultural centre; as well as a dog show, bouncy castle, and fireworks at dusk. Highlands East also hosted a full slate of events, while Algonquin Highlands and Dysart et al also celebrated Canada's birthday.

Top left: Wes Lawrence takes part in the Canada Day fish derby in Minden. Top centre: Herschel Jacobs shines his ride. Top right: Deagan Schlosser throws a line into the Gull River. Bottom centre: Rev. Martha Waind in the St. Paul's Anglican Church fashion show. Bottom right: Bill and Linda got all dressed up for the fashion show put on by St. Paul's Anglican Church. *Photos by Lisa Gervais*

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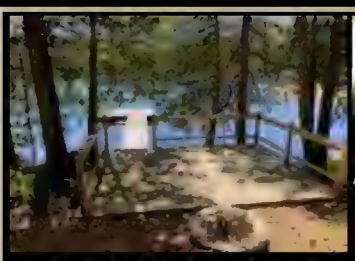
**Cranberry Lake $649,000**
- 2 bedrooms, 1 bath home or cottage
- 1-car garage or seasonal media room
- Sandy shallow entry with big-lake views



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- 18-Acre Property, Custom-Built in 2022
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Brandon Nimigon*** (289) 259-1952

**Charming Home $625,000**
- Newly Built 3 Bdrm, 1 Bath Home (2022)
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**Haliburton By The Lake $588,000**
- 4 Beds/2 Baths, 1,825 SqFt, 0.94 acres
- Designed For Shared Living, Indiv. Units
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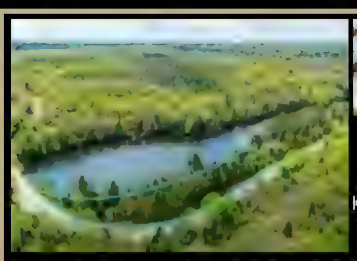

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
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**Burnt River Lot $200,000**
- 1.8 Acre Lot, 943ft of River Frontage
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**Irondale River Home/Cottage**
- Park-Like Setting, Beautiful Flower Gardens
- Cute 2 Bdrm W/ Attch'd Garage & Carport
- $379,000

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

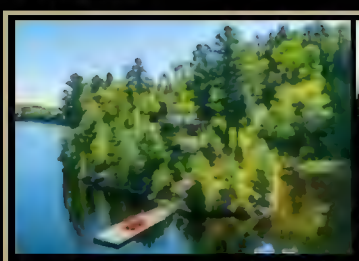
**Contau Lake $1,495,000**
- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 3,300+ SqFt, Post & Beam
- Zoned Heating & Cooling, Lg Heated Shop
- Dtch'd 26'x40' Garage, Oversized Dock

Greg Stamp* (705) 455-2231

**Green Lake $699,000**
- 6 Beds/3 Baths, 4,000SqFt, 0.57 Acres
- Radiant In-Flr Heating, Lg Chef's Kitchen
- Direct Access To 4-Lake Chain, New Dock

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

**Green Lake $349,000**
- Waterfront building lot in West Guilford
- 70' of clean frontage across a quiet road
- Build your dream home or getaway!



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# Highlander events

## Municipality of Dysart et al

*In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands*

**FORM 6**
**SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER**

*Municipal Act, 2001*
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

### SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

**THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE**

**Take Notice** that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 31, 2025, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

**Submitted tenders will be opened live on YouTube using the link:**

**https://youtube.com/live/32olSuUcNEk?feature=share**

**Description of Lands:**
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 40100 0000; PIN 39170-0005 (R); PART OF LOTS 13 AND 14, CONCESSION 5, NOW DESIGNATED AS PART 2 ON REFERENCE PLAN 19R10954, IN THE GEOGRAPHIC TOWNSHIP OF DYSART, UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE, COUNTY OF HALIBURTON (LAND REGISTRY OFFICE NO. 19); File No. 23-03
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $23,000
**Minimum tender amount: $18,181.85**
2. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 56010 0000; 201 MOUNTAIN ST., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0106 (LT); PT LT 15 CON 6 DYSART PT 1 19R5232; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-03
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $34,500
**Minimum tender amount: $7,325.90**
3. Roll No. 46 24 030 000 40805 0000; PIN 39157-0107 (LT); PT LT 21 CON 4 HARCOURT AS IN H71718 S & E OF PT 4 19R1004; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-14
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $28,000
**Minimum tender amount: $6,493.38**
4. Roll No. 46 24 050 000 38800 0000; 1005 FORT IRWIN RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39149-0244 (LT); LT 12 PL 568 T/W H271699; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-26
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $43,500
**Minimum tender amount: $7,110.38**

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

**Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.**

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, visit:

**www.OntarioTaxSales.ca**
or if no internet access available, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley,
Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext.639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca
www.dysartetal.ca

# Rockin' it Rotary style

Haliburton Rotary Music in the Park kicked off its summer season June 24 with The Rockin' Bobs. The series continues every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Head Lake bandshell – until Aug. 27. Canada Day featured Ragged Company. Next up is Radio Rockers on July 8. Admission by donation. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

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# THANK YOU HALIBURTON COUNTY!

Jump in the Lake Challenge

Minden Community Food Centre and Central Food Network gratefully acknowledge the volunteers, donors, 41 brave plungers, and 25 local businesses who made a splash with Jump in the Lake 2025!

**TOGETHER WE RAISED**

# $22,557

Central Food Network

Minden Community Food Centre

Remember Me Quilts and More · Stedmans · Up River Trading Co. · Haliburton Highlands Brewing · The Toolbox · Pharmasave · Paulmac's Pets · Redbrick Records · Mercantile & Feed Co. · Mill Pond Restaurant · Rosa Park Visuals · Orchard Tree · Coneybeare's · Boshkung Brewing Co. · juna · Wintergreen Maple Products · Rising Thymes · Molly's Market Bakery · Foodland · The Wolf Moon · Rhubarb Haliburton · Home Hardware · The Mason Jar

## FIGHTING POVERTY IN THE HIGHLANDS TOGETHER

## SMILE COOKIES RAISED $22,118!

From April 28th to May 4th, 100% of proceeds from Smile Cookies sold at Tim Hortons in Minden and Haliburton went towards supporting Central Food Network's essential programs, including:

- Cardiff & Wilberforce Food Banks
- Highlands East Community Cooks
- Free Income Tax Clinics
- Heat Bank Haliburton County

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Central Food Network

## THANK YOU TO ALL CFN VOLUNTEERS!

CFN runs on the heart and hustle of **70+ amazing volunteers**—in our food banks, delivering firewood, filing taxes, sitting on our board and more. **Thank you for your commitment and the incredible impact you make across Haliburton County!**

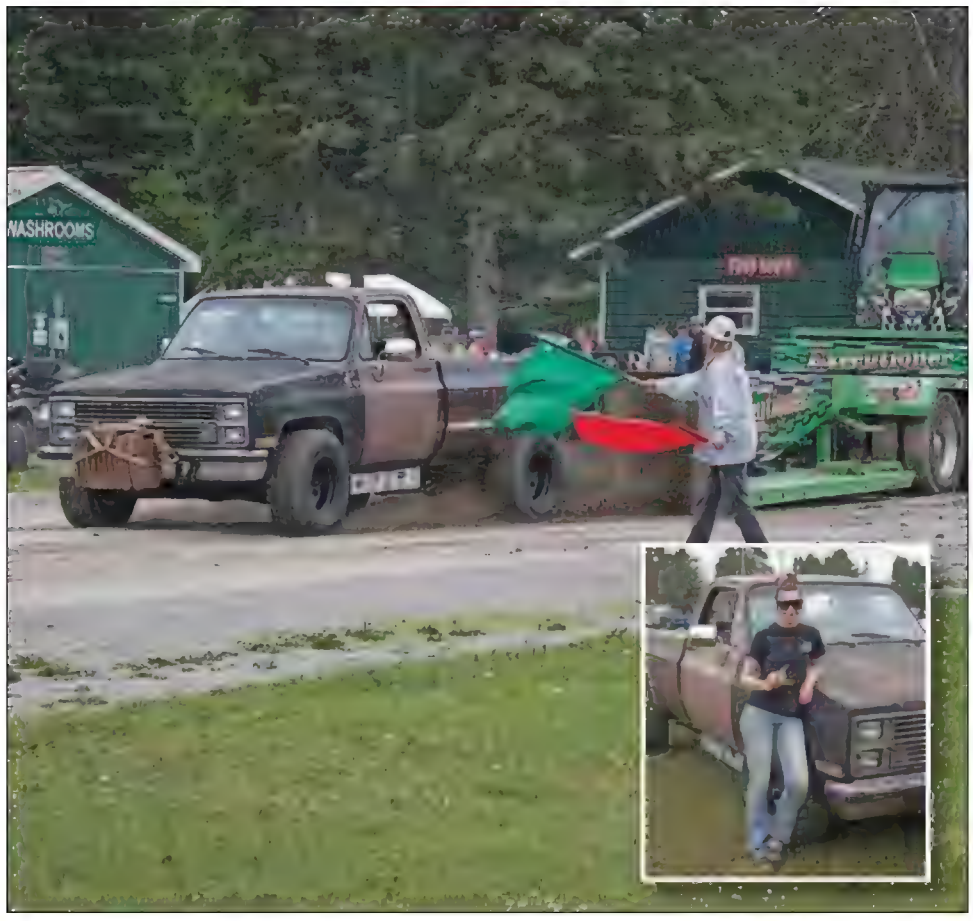
## Join the CFN Board of Directors!

Central Food Network

In 2024, CFN provided over **$1.6 million** in food, meals, hydro help, firewood, and other benefits to the community!

**Join us, strengthen our community! centralfoodnetwork.org**

# Highlander events



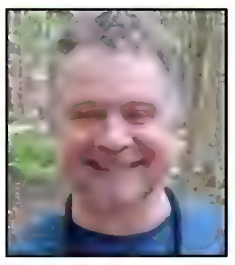

## Let's get loud

The unmistakable roar of a pick-up truck engine emanated from the Minden Fairgrounds for much of the day June 28 as the Minden Kinsmen Club hosted its 36th annual truck pull/show and shine event. This year's offering also included a cornhole tournament, which inspired competition among attendees.

Above: Jessica Dolliver starts her run to victory in the modified gas class, making her 1984 Chevrolet 4x4 pick-up purr. Inset: Dolliver with her ride. *Photos by Ryan Roediger.*

ADVERTORIAL

# Yes, plants can grow in that shady spot



By Simon Payn

Shade doesn't have to be about hostas and ferns. Instead, how about a native sedge meadow, where a tapestry of textures supports delicate flowering perennials and architectural shrubs?

In a land of forests, most of us have patches of shade, areas that get sun for a few hours each day, or places where light peeks through the tree canopy. These shadier spots, except perhaps the deep, dry shade under a stand of hemlocks, can support plants. The challenge then is to create a landscape that holds our attention and is valuable to wildlife.

### The meadow tapestry

We start, as in all our designs, with the groundcover matrix, that important yet often ignored plant layer underpinning the design. For shade, consider the magic of sedges.

Plants in the genus *Carex* go under the radar, yet they're everywhere. There are 2,000 known species worldwide, about 500 in North America, each suited to different conditions and each with different physical characteristics.

Common in the Highlands is *Carex rosea* (Woodland or Rosy Sedge). Its thin leaves form delicate bunches, and in June subtle green flowers sprout. It's versatile, coping with dry, sandy ground as well as loamy woodland edges.

Or consider *Carex gracilima* (Graceful Sedge). This plant lives up to its name, with thicker arching leaves.

Also on the radar are *Carex vulpinoidea* (Fox Sedge), with foxtail-like seed heads, and *Carex muhlenbergii* (Muhlenberg's Sedge), which loves dry, sandy spots.

### The main characters

Shade gardens are places for texture over colour. Flowers can exist, but mostly the blooms are demure and appear in spring.

Violets can join the sedges in the matrix. Consider *Viola canadensis*, with its juicy leaves and white flowers, or the more aggressive *Viola sororia*.

Think about adding ephemerals, those plants that bloom before the trees leaf out then go dormant in summer. Most famous is *Trillium grandiflorum* (Large-flowered Trillium). But don't forget the delicate flowers of *Claytonia virginica* (Spring Beauty), the curious blooms of *Dicentra cucullaria* (Dutchman's Breeches), and the tropical-looking *Arisaema triphyllum* (Jack-in-the-Pulpit).

As the season starts to get going, it's time to think about the seasonal vignette layer. *Thalictrum dioicum* (Early Meadowrue) has delicate leaves that contrast with the sedges. And look to *Phlox divaricata* (Wild Blue Phlox), with its clusters of pale blue flowers.

Moving into summer, the standout is the yellow flowers of *Helianthus divaricatus* (Woodland Sunflower). But it's suitable only in places with room to spread. Wetter conditions, such as a shaded shoreline, might be perfect for *Chelone glabra* (White Turtlehead).

As we move towards fall, we have *Solidago flexicaulis* (Zigzag Goldenrod), one of the least aggressive goldenrods with delicate yellow flowers. Pair that with *Symphyotrichum cordifolium* (Heart-leaved Aster), which forms colonies of pale blue flowers in fall.

### The bold forms

Finally, we come to the structure layer - the shrubs. Consider *Rubus odoratus* (Purple-flowering Raspberry), with its broad leaves and lack of thorns. Or *Diervilla lonicera* (Bush Honeysuckle), which thrives in various locations and rewards with delicate yellow flowers. Or *Lindera benzoin* (Spicebush), which is very happy nestled under trees.

The more shaded landscapes I make, the more I come to love their subtle beauty.

*Simon Payn is the owner of Haliburton-based natural garden company, Grounded. To find out more, visit groundedgardens.ca.*

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grounded
GARDENING FOR LIFE

# Highlander events

## That'sss cool

Browning Reptiles set up shop at the Dysart et al branch of the Haliburton County Public Library June 27, introducing County kids to cold-blooded critters like snakes and lizards. Co-owner Sarah Brown, a master herpetologist, said her mission is to educate and inspire, while sprinkling in a little fun. "We are committed to providing accurate, science-based information in every school presentation, classroom visit and public event. Education can and should be fun and engaging, and I make it our mission to bring excitement into learning through live animal experiences," Brown said, noting the business also operates as a reptile rescue for animals in need and surrenders. *(Mike Baker).*

Above left: Browning Reptile co-owner Sarah Brown with Sweet Pea, a 15-year-old ball python. Above centre: Barrett Brown gets up close and personal with Sweet Pea. Above right: Olivia Vasey carefully handles Sweet Pea. Right: A close-up of Buddy, an 11-year-old leopard gecko, who excited kids at last week's event. *Photos by Ryan Roediger.*

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## JULY 3 - JULY 9 this week

### Thursday July 3

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

### Friday July 4

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Will Surphlis, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Jeff Moulton Band, 7-9 pm

### Saturday July 5

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Bill Black, 12 p.m.-3 p.m.

Boshkung Smokehouse, Bill Black, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chris Smith, 2-4 pm

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

### Sunday July 6

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Boshkung Smokehouse, Live Music-a-thon, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Brian Sachs & Jamie, 2-4 pm

### Tuesday July 8

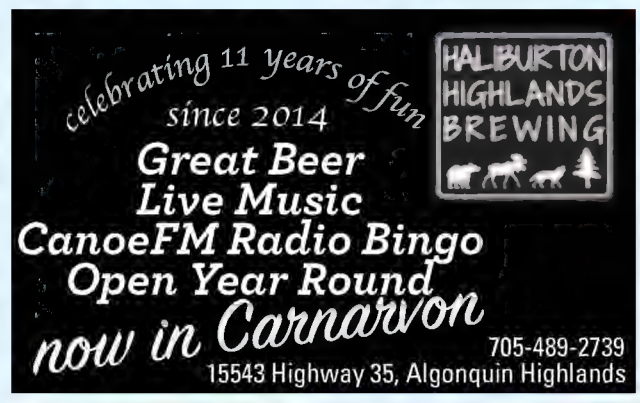
Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 p.m.

Music in the Park, featuring Radio Rockers, 6:30 p.m.

### Wednesday July 9

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., Wing Wednesday!

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Chris Smith, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

DO YOU THROW EVENTS?

**Don't miss out!**

Hit us up to be advertised here in the weekly entertainment section.

laurie@thehighlander.ca

# What's on

## ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

### Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

**Mondays:** Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
**Tuesdays:** Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
**Wednesdays:** Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
**Thursdays:** General meeting third Thursday of the month.
**Fridays:** meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
**Saturdays:** Open only for special events
**Clubroom hours:** Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

**Upcoming events:** Drum circle July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

### Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
**Friday** Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
**Saturday** all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
**Weekly activities:**
Karaoke: call for dates
**Monday:** Rug Hookers every second week.
**Monday:** Euchre 1-3 p.m.
**Thursday:** Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

### Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

**Mondays:** open 7 to 10 p.m.
**Tuesdays:** closed
**Wednesdays:** open 2 to 10 p.m.
**Thursdays:** open 2 to 6 p.m.
**Fridays:** open 2 to 11 p.m.
**Saturdays:** open 2 to 9 p.m.
**Sundays:** closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. July 7, 14, 21 and 28. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are July 9, 16, 23, 30 at 2 p.m. Cost is $4 per player.

Quick supper nights July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Menu changes weekly. Cost is $10 per person.

## EVENTS

There's nothing better than summer reading. Pick up a free TD Summer Reading Club Kit at any Haliburton County Public Library branch. Read the summer away and complete activities for a chance to win a prize. Submit a 'book bingo' card and/or the 'reading passport' by Aug. 15 to enter the draw. There are activities for people of all ages and abilities.

**July 3**, 4 to 6 p.m. Walkabout and instructor feature at Haliburton School of Art + Design. Explore instructors' works, learn about their techniques, and discover new perspectives as you tour studios and enjoy featured exhibitions. Live music to follow in the great hall. These shows are the perfect way to unwind and connect with like-minded people. All are welcome.

**July 3**, 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. Have you ever heard the magical sound of wolves howling in unison? Every Thursday night in July and August, the Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre welcomes the public to gather in its seminar building for a short presentation about wolves followed by a walk outdoors where staff will attempt to engage with the wolves. There is no cost to attend. The program will begin at 8 p.m.

**July 5**, 10 a.m. The Eagle Lake Women's Society is hosting its annual BBQ and pie sale at Eagle Lake Church. Join us for a delicious summer tradition. Enjoy mouthwatering BBQ and homemade pies, all prepared with love. Come hungry, leave happy. Cash only.

**July 5**, 1 to 4 p.m. Invasive plants workshop, featuring Monica Liedtke from the Invasive Species Centre, who will present on the common invasive plants in Haliburton County followed by a guided tour of some infestation sites to further discuss control methods in the field. Taking place at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre. In partnership with the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust.

**July 6**, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. SIRCH Bistro is hosting its next repair café. Bring your broken items or your repair expertise to one of these events and work together to repair household electrical and mechanical devices, furniture, computers, bicycles, clothing and cherished antiques and keepsakes. Taking place at 49 Maple Ave.

**July 6**, 4 to 5 p.m. Kids aged six and up who want to learn about gardening are welcome to join the Horticultural Society Youth Members Program. Email minden.jr.hort.club@gmail.com

**July 6**, 7 p.m. Summer is for gardeners! Join the Minden and District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Centre. Guest speaker Pat de Valence will be discussing 'easy gardening: high style, low maintenance'. Followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome.

**July 8**, 10 a.m. Free guided walking tours in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest every Tuesday in July and August. Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot, at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to 2 hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024076:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of the Gull River lying in front of 1089 Mistivale Road, located within Part Lot 6, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

**AND TAKE NOTICE** should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **July 25, 2025**.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than July 25, 2025.

**AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced application will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

Location map

# Highlander classifieds

## SERVICES

M.A.H. UPHOLSTERY – Boat Covers & Repairs. Boat Interiors & Repairs. ATV, Sea-Doo, Snowmobile and Motorcycle seats. Over 40 years of experience. Call 705-457-0726

HANDYMAN – Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

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MINI EXCAVATOR FOR HIRE, with a skilled operator! Whether you need site preparation, septic repairs, driveways, or a range of other services, we've got you covered. Don't hesitate—call us today at 705-957-8617 to get started!

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## HELP WANTED

**Help Wanted – Sales Representative**
**The Highlander Newspaper**

Are you *outgoing, organized,* and *love connecting with people*? The Highlander is looking for you to join our team!

This role involves working with local businesses to develop advertising solutions that help them grow. You'll build relationships, manage accounts, and introduce clients to the many opportunities The Highlander offers in print and online.

What we're looking for:

- Strong communication and people skills
- Self-motivated with a positive attitude
- Organized and able to manage multiple accounts
- Previous sales experience is a plus, but not required — we're happy to train the right person!

Join a passionate, community-driven team that values creativity, results, and local connection.

To apply, email your resume to heather@thehighlander.ca

**The Highlander**

---

blackrock landscapes

**Now Hiring**
**Landscape Construction Foreman**

Must have experience managing people, operating machines & tools, reading blueprints and have a valid driver's license. We are looking for a motivated individual who is professional, organized and has great customer relationship skills.

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For inquires email resume to...
info@blackrocklandscapes.ca

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Municipality of Highlands East – Yours to Explore – highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East

is currently seeking candidates for the future position of:

**Full-Time, Human Resources & Payroll Coordinator**
**Administration Department**

**Rate of Pay:** $43.20-$50.82 per hour
**Hours of Work:** 35 hours/week

Successful applicants will be required to provide a criminal reference check upon commencement of employment.

A copy of the detailed job description for the above noted position can be obtained on our website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in applying, applications **clearly marked "Application –Human Resources & Payroll Coordinator"** may be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., Friday, July 18th, 2025 via email, fax, mail, or in person through the office drop box. Interested applicants may submit their resume, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
2249 Loop Road. P.O. Box 295
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/ Treasurer.

---

**Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation**
**provides housing for seniors and families in 3 locations in the village of Minden.**

**We are currently seeking a reliable and hard-working Cleaning/Maintenance Assistant with good work ethics and able to work independently to join our team. This position is responsible for the cleanliness, safety and minor maintenance of our buildings and properties. This is currently a part-time position, being 22.5 hours per week.**

**This position is responsible for the cleanliness and maintenance of Staanworth's facilities.**

**Primary duties include maintaining cleanliness of all building entrances, hallways, common rooms, washrooms, laundry and garbage rooms.**
**Secondary duties include minor repairs to apartments, painting, assistance to the maintenance supervisor with move-out procedures, garbage transport to landfills and yard maintenance. Job description is available on request.**

**Successful applicants will have experience in cleaning, and a sound knowledge of employment safety regulations. WHMIS certification is desired. A driver's license and abstract plus a vulnerable police check will be required.**

**This position includes employer paid benefits (medical, dental, vision and life insurance). The wage will commence at $18 - $20 per hour, commensurate with experience. Start date; July 21, 2025.**

**Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. - July 11, 2025, to: Staanworth Non-Profit Housing, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, KOM 2KO or email to office@staanworth.ca**

## WANTED

**WANTED ANTIQUES**

Furniture, old signs, gold or costume jewellery, wrist and pocket watches, old coins, sterling silver, teacups, china, books, records, miltary items, paintings, **anything old**.

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# Highlander classifieds

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## MUSICIAN AVAIL

ACOUSTIC GUITAR / VOCALIST available for private parties, bars and corporate events. Songs ranging from the 70's / 80's / 90's to current hits. I have played the Rockcliffe (Moore Falls) / Graz (Bobcaygeon) / and many years ago the Ontario Place Forum / The El Mocambo and multiple other Ontario bars throughout my career. "Call or text for more info" 416.580.3195 or Instagram search keithautymusic

## FOR SALE

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $130. per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE- Brand new upright fridge, $600. Or B/O Also, 2007 Chev. Pickup truck, 4 x 4, 6,000. Firm As Is, House trailer, $8,000. Firm As Is. Call Ray at 705-457-3283 or 705-306-4986.

FOR SALE – THE WAIT IS OVER … Our award wining Honey Butter is back! (Clove, Golden Honey, Creamed & Wax also available) Call Tom at 705-286-3628 or stop by at 2801 Blairhampton Road, Minden

FOR SALE – Snow Tires 225/65R15 4 Tires & Rims, 2 years old. $300. Firm. Call 437-237-8174

## YARD SALE

LARGE ESTATE SALE – 3748 County Road 121, Kinmount. Saturday July 5th & Sunday, July 6th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Furniture, tools medical aid stuff, lawn furniture, books, garden tools, too much to list. Priced to go!

## FOR RENT

FOR RENT - 1 & 2 bedroom unfurnished apartment, walking distance to downtown Minden. Please call 705-457-6047 for more information.

## LOOKING TO RENT

LOOKING TO RENT WANTED – Senior lady seeking to downsize to a self-contained, ground level apartment. Must be non-smoking. Please e-mail gematt20@outlook.com

## WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

## EVENT

EVENT - Norwood Country Jamboree - July 17-20. Tickets available at Wilson Tire & Battery, Lindsay or 1-800-954-9998

EVENT - STAINED GLASS WORKSHOPS from beginner up. Learn the art of Stained Glass in one or two day classes.. Call Tom at 705-286-3628

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# Highlander classifieds

## NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

## NOTICE

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Link Building. 5152 County Rd 21. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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# Highlander classifieds

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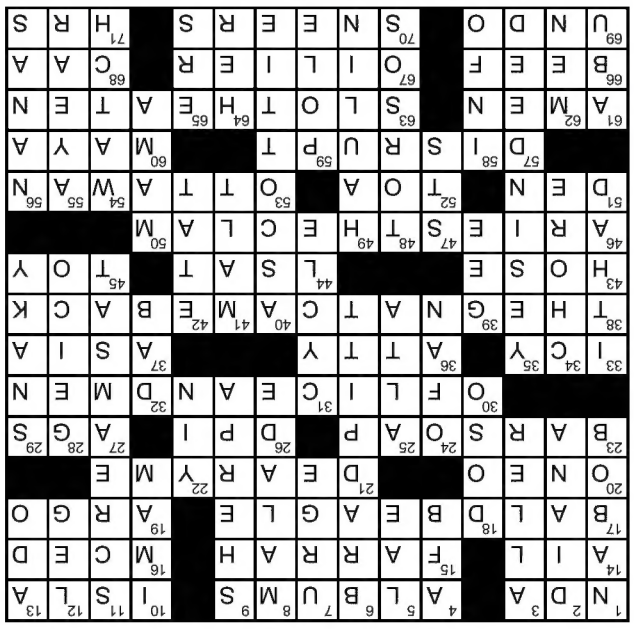
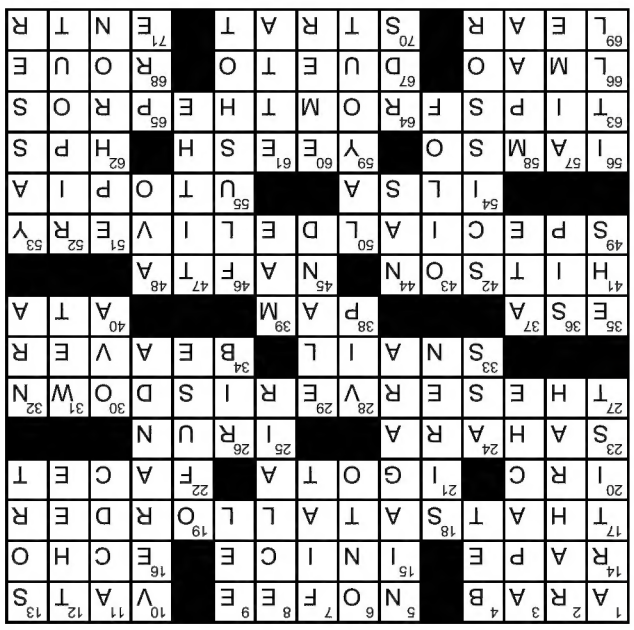
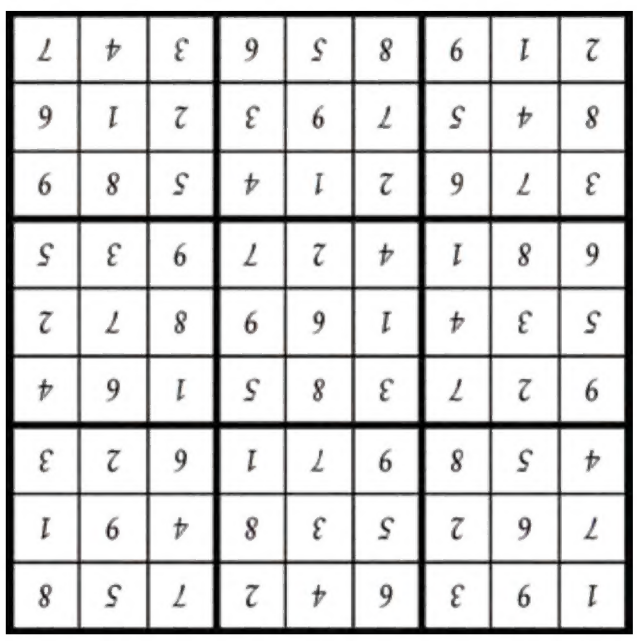
## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



## THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





## CELEBRATION

*Look Who's Turning 90!*

**Gareth Kellett**

***90th Birthday***

Open House Celebration
**Saturday July 12**
1-3 at Dominion Hotel-Minden
Lite refreshments served

***Your presence is a 'gift'***
***Best wishes only***

## OBITUARY

*In Loving Memory of*

**Bernice Emily Fife (Marnoch) nee Stenhouse**

January 13, 1930 - June 26, 2025

Bernice passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Long Term Care in Minden, Ontario surrounded by her family.

Born on January 13, 1930, Bernice was known for her kindness and dedication to family. She was a loving mother to six children- Cathy Marnoch, Carolyn Riddell (Bob), Alexander Marnoch (Teresa), Roddy Marnoch (Cynthia), Gordon Marnoch (Jennine) and Margie Prestwich (David). Bernice was also a cherished grandmother to nine grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren with another on the way.

Bernice was predeceased by her first husband, Alexander Marnoch in 1975, and later by her second husband, Jim Fife in 2008. Bernice's beloved twin sister, Audrey, passed away just a year ago and her brother Dave is also predeceased.

Bernice was known for her welcoming home, where the door was always open. She was a talented baker and those who tasted her homemade cookies can attest to this but what made Bernice special was her ability to make people feel cared for. Her kindness and generosity and willingness to help anyone has left a lasting impact on the lives of those who knew her.

The family is deeply grateful to the staff at Hyland Crest Long Term Care and Bernice's private care team for the kindness and care they gave Bernice in her final years.

A funeral service will be held at Kane-Jerrett Funeral Home 8088 Yonge St., Thornhill, ON.

Thursday, July 10, 2025 Visitation from 12:00pm - 1:00. Service at 1:00 followed by snacks and refreshments.

Bernice will be so deeply missed by all who knew her.

## OBITUARY

*In Loving Memory of*

**Valerie Elizabeth (Beth) Titus (nee Hughes)**

Passed away peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Monday, June 23, 2025, at the age of 78.

Beloved wife of the late David Roger Titus (August 7, 2007). Loving mother of Carol Anne Moore (Jim Moore) of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Robbie Titus (Celine) of Sudbury, Ontario. Dear Grammy of Chrissy (Kevin) and Madison and special Great Grammy of Mason. Dear sister of the late Blake Hughes (Joyce), Lynn Cox (Wayne), Dana Mann (Carl) and Aunt to Amy, Rachel, Meghan, Orie and Special Second Mom to Chris "Chunk" Maynard. The family would like to acknowledge the wonderful support, knowledge and care by our extended "sister" family member Jill Stamp Brown.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden KoM 2Ko on Friday, July 25, 2025 from11:00 am until the time of the Memorial Service to Celebrate Beth's Life at 12:30 pm. Interment at Minden Cemetery. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Cremation has taken place

Memorial Donations to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by the family.

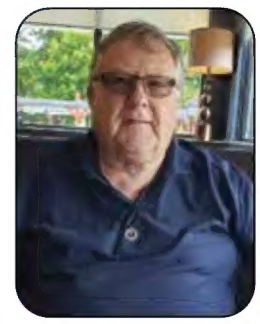
www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

## OBITUARY

*In Loving Memory of*

**John Thomas Browning**



Passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, June 29, 2025 with his family by his side.

Survived by his loving wife and best friend Beth for 53 years, by his son Johnny, by his daughter Jennifer and by his grandsons Oscar and Logan. Dear brother of Geraldine, Deborah (Dave-deceased), Kenneth (Sheri) and predeceased by his sister Donna. Loving uncle to his nieces, nephews and was a friend to many.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Nell Thomas for her care and support, to the wonderful staff at the Haliburton Hospital and at the Cancer Centre at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden KoM 2Ko on Saturday, July 12, 2025 from 1:00 pm until the time of the Service to Celebrate John's Life at 2:00 pm. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre at the funeral home. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Minden Fire Department (by Cheque Only) or to the Minden Community Food Centre (Food Bank) would be appreciated by the family.

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# Highlander puzzles

## At the Restaurant

by Barbara Olson
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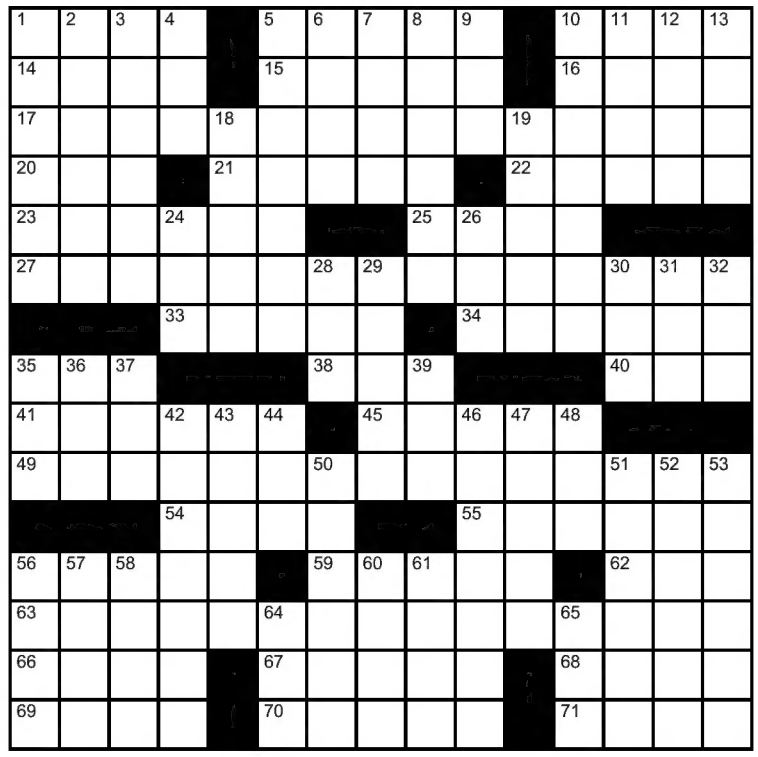

**Across**

**1** Yemenite or Saudi
**5** Without service charges
**10** Ink factory tanks
**14** Pope poem "The ___ of the Lock"
**15** Packed to chill, as beer
**16** Canyon comeback?
**17** Remark to a diner about a triple decker hamburger?
**20** Global relief org. founded by Einstein
**21** Jim Croce's "___ Name"
**22** Cut gem section
**23** It translates to "the greatest desert"
**25** Melissa Etheridge's "___ for Life"
**27** Comment about a mopey waiter?
**33** Escargot, pre-menu item
**34** Critter on a nickel
**35** Juan's "that"
**38** "The Office" receptionist
**40** One-time link
**41** Tries to pick up
**45** Trade treaty replaced by CUSMA
**49** Featured entrée brought to one's door?
**54** Big role for Ingrid
**55** It's the best place ever
**56** "___ done with this!"
**59** "Oh, man?!!"
**62** Some PCs or printers
**63** Gratuities left by paid athletes?
**66** Texter's "You slay me!"
**67** Because of
**68** Skirt chaser
**69** Goneril's dad in a tragedy
**70** Fender guitar, for short
**71** ___'acte (intermission)

**Down**

**1** Potter, painter or pianist
**2** Really pumped (about)
**3** Tribe for which a helicopter is named
**4** Something to shake on
**5** ___-on-the-Lake (Ontario town)
**6** Get ___ (acquire the knack)
**7** Legal decree
**8** Oblong cream puff
**9** Slithery fish
**10** Covered, enclosed porch
**11** "Highway to Hell" rockers
**12** The old you?
**13** Ilk
**18** Ambulance wail
**19** Good for something
**24** Donkey kin
**26** Open umbrella support
**28** Back stage pass holder, say
**29** Spiral-horned antelope
**30** Eggs in a petri dish
**31** Just out of the pool
**32** Gun rights grp.
**35** Jokey Canadianisms
**36** Drink delicately
**37** Fell for (it)
**39** Canadian songstress Moore
**42** Kind of swimmer's kick
**43** ___ Olay
**44** Jay-Z's onetime rap foe
**46** Late autumn jab
**47** Parishioner's contribution
**48** Guacamole base, for short
**50** Ads and articles arrangement
**51** Writer/director Nora ___
**52** Undo, as stitches
**53** The P.L.O.'s Arafat
**56** "___ never fly"
**57** Valentine verb, in Verdun
**58** Film rating org.
**60** 911 situation: Abbr.
**61** Soul-singer James
**64** Hwys., but smaller
**65** "Post" opposite

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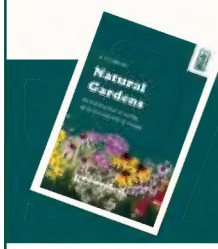


For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.


| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | 2 | | 5 | 8 |
| | 6 | | | | | 4 | | |
| | 5 | | | | | | 2 | |
| 9 | | | 3 | 8 | | | 6 | 4 |
| | 3 | | | | 9 | 8 | | |
| | | 1 | | 2 | 7 | 9 | | 5 |
| | | 6 | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | 9 | 3 | 2 | | 6 |
| | | | | 5 | 6 | | 4 | 7 |

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